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Liberty, Justice, and the Report

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General

50 Ex-Leaders Of NSA Score Report on CIA

By Gerald Grant
Washington Post Staff Writer

Fifty former leaders of the National Student Association yesterday criticized the Katzenbach report as a "poor substitute for full disclosure" of the CIA's secret subsidies.

The report "failed to raise any of the ethical issues involved," said Curtis Gans, a former national affairs vice president, speaking for 50 top NSA staffers who in spy jargon were "unwitting," or unknowing of the Association's relationship with the CIA.

Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach was chairman of a special panel which reported to President

Johnson Wednesday on the CIA's covert support of private voluntary organizations such as NSA.

Mr. Johnson endorsed the panel's recommendation that all covert support to such groups be terminated. Serious consideration would be given to its proposal for a "public-private mechanism" that could openly fund overseas activities by private groups, the President added.

The Katzenbach committee's investigation was triggered by disclosure of the CIA's 15-year secret support of the NSA—uncovering the first strand of a web of CIA links to labor unions, cultural groups and educational organizations.

At a press conference yesterday, Gans disagreed strongly with the report's contention that "no useful purpose" would be served by publishing a complete list of the organizations aided by the CIA.

Gans argued that the "American people have a right to know which (private) institutions are controlled by the CIA."

The statement Gans handed to the press signed by the 50 former key NSA staff officials was in sharp contrast to that made in recent weeks by about a score of former presidents and vice presidents who were "willing." The latter

group defended their involvement the CIA.

The signers of yesterday's statement admonished those who joined hands with the CIA, charging they were "hardly acting responsibly to their constituency," and went on to:

- Call for a strong limitation of CIA powers and more effective scrutiny of CIA operations by Congress and the Executive Branch.
- Urge that all private foundations — some of which served as conduits for CIA funds to other domestic groups — make a public accounting of the sources and disposition of their funds.
- Demand a full public investigation into all the ramifications of the CIA-NSA affair.

Gans, now a staff worker for Americans for Democratic Action, also attacked the Katzenbach panel's assertion that ways should be found now to support openly those private groups funded by the CIA.

Groups such as the NSA, with a strong domestic program that was untouched by its financial dependence on CIA, should continue their work, Gans said. But he felt that groups that were virtually constructs of the CIA, such as Radio Free Europe or the International Student Conference in Belgium, should fold up.

On Capitol Hill yesterday, Rep. Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.) announced his Foreign Affairs subcommittee would hold hearings on the Katzenbach committee report. Fascell endorsed the report as a "most realistic position on a subject which is of great importance to all Americans."